

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 206
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 13/12/2024

STEPS TO PROTECT MENTHA FARMERS

*206. SHRI JAVED ALI KHAN:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware that mentha farming in the country, particularly in Western Uttar Pradesh has become unremunerative due to widespread availability of synthetic mentha oil at lower rate than the pure/natural mentha oil produced traditionally in the region;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the details of steps Government would take to protect mentha farmers of the country?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

(SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN)

- (a) to (c): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

**STATEMENT IN RESPECT OF PARTS (a) TO (c) OF THE RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 206 FOR 13/12/2024 REGARDING STEPS TO
PROTECT MENTHA FARMERS.**

(a) to (c): India is one of the major producer and exporter country of mentha oil in the global market. During 2023-24, an area of 348.68 thousand hectares was under mentha cultivation with production of 35.15 thousand tons of natural mentha oil. There is an increasing trend in area under methacultivation in successive years from 2019-20 to 2023-24 and Uttar Pradesh is the major producer in the country. The area under cultivation of mentha and production of mentha oil during the last five years is given at **Annexure-I**. The import and export of mentha oil during last five years is given at **Annexure-II**.

Government of India is implementing various programmes for production and processing of Aromatic Plants including mentha in the country. Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH) is implemented for holistic development of horticulture including mentha. Under the mission, assistance for area expansion @40% of the cost (Rs. 40,000/ hectare), subject to a maximum of Rs.16,000/- per hectare (for a maximum area of 4 hectare per beneficiary) and for establishment of processing units, credit linked assistance @ 40% of capital cost of (Rs. 25.00 lakh/unit), subject to a maximum of Rs. 10.00 lakh/unit are available.

The six digit Harmonised System of Nomenclature (HSN) code, a globally recognized system for classification of goods, for natural and synthetic menthol has recently been separated by the Government during 2024. This will reflect exact imported quantity of synthetic menthol to evolve a better strategy for reducing the import of synthetic menthol and promote natural menthol.

Spices Board, Ministry of Commerce & Industry is implementing a scheme “sustainability in spice sector through progressive, innovative and collaborative interventions for export development (SPICED)”. Incentive is available to mint farmers under the component of post-harvest quality upgradation. The Board is also providing assistance to mint farmers/ Farmers Producer Organizations (FPOs) for installation of mint distillation units.

Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR)-Central Institute of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants (CIMAP), Lucknow has taken steps for the development of agro-technologies to increase the yield of mentha oil for better remuneration to the farmers. CIM-Kranti and CIM- Unnati varieties were released in 2013 and 2020 respectively have been

performing well in the field and about 95 per cent mentha cultivation is covered by varieties released by CIMAP. CIMAP has also implemented CSIR Aroma Mission and other sponsored projects wherein distribution of quality planting material, organization of skill development training programmes and field visits for on-spot technical assistance to the farmers is provided. The CIMAP is organizing Kisan Mela every year at Lucknow campus and Pantnagar campus (a research centre of CSIR-CIMAP), Uttarakhand to showcase improved varieties and agro-technologies to mentha farmers for adoption.

Fragrance & Flavour Development Centre (FFDC), Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME), Kannauj, Uttar Pradesh are providing testing facility for mentha oil and training to the farmers for cultivation and processing of mentha and other aromatic crops.

Area and production of Mint (Mentha) in India

Year	Area ('000 ha)	Mentha Oil Production ('000 tonnes)
2019-20	328.14	44.02
2020-21	347.28	45.80
2021-22	346.30	35.01
2022-23	347.46	35.12
2023-24	348.68	35.15

Source: Horticulture Statistics Division, Department of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare (DA&FW)

Export and Import of Mint products in India

Year	Export			Import		
	Quantity (MT)	Value (Rs in Crores)	Unit value (Rs/kg)	Quantity (MT)	Value (Rs in Crores)	Unit value (Rs/kg)
2019-20	24470	3832.02	1566.0	3214	346.97	1079.6
2020-21	27519	3667.13	1332.6	4967	528.57	1064.2
2021-22	36254	4441.44	1225.1	4452	472.32	1060.9
2022-23	26708	3573.86	1338.1	4474	486.53	1087.5
2023-24	27659	3439.2	1243.4	11554	1155.83	1000.4
2024-25 (April to Sept.)	13267	1687.94	1272.3	6559	618.98	943.7
Source: Spices Board India, Ministry of Commerce, Government of India, Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics (DGCI&S) Kolkata/ Ministry of Commerce						
